
BOOK REVIEWS

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HIV and AIDS and Older People. By T KAUFMANN, London: Age Concern, England. 1995. (Pp 112; £9.95). ISBN 0-86242-181-0.

This very readable short book, published by Age Concern, aims to provide information for older people who are affected, either directly or indirectly, by HIV or AIDS. However, clinical aspects are dealt with too superficially to satisfy most readers with HIV/AIDS. Symptoms of HIV/AIDS receive only a few paragraphs in the entire book. The two occasions when thrush is mentioned do not explain that this is in the mouth. The statement that people (with AIDS) may live for many years is misleading. Research into drug treatments is mentioned but no drugs are named nor does the book actually let on that anti-retroviral drugs exist.

Much more emphasis is given to how to avoid contracting HIV and to the various modes of transmission. Here again there is a misleading statement in that one mechanism of vertical transmission is described as "*possibly through breast feeding*".

The book's strengths are its helpful discussion of psychological issues and also the chapter entitled *Getting Practical Help*.

I suspect that this book's main appeal will be to the parents or older carers of people with HIV/AIDS.

CHRIS CARNE

Atlas of Vulvar Disease. By EDWARD J WILKINSON and I KEITH STONE. (Pp 240; £92.) 1995. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. ISBN 0-683-09092-5.

A further addition to the list of recently published texts on the vulva, this *Atlas of Vulvar Disease* is aimed at specialist level, that is for

the clinician who routinely manages a fair number of women with vulval problems. The authors are Edward Wilkinson, Professor of Pathology and Keith Stone, Associate Professor of Gynaecology at the University of Florida. The quality of photographs partly determines the success of a medical atlas and in this particular book the standard is excellent. Professor Wilkinson has written widely on vulval pathology and provides a very good account of the histological features of all vulval conditions. The accompanying photographs of histology are also well produced and would serve to make this text a useful addition to the bookshelf of all general pathologists who are required to report on vulval biopsies. There are twelve chapters entitled introduction, cysts, maculae, papillae, papules, plaques, tumours, ulcers, verrucae, vesicles, paediatrics and trauma. Some conditions do not sit happily in their chosen chapter, for example, lichen planus, lichen sclerosus and vestibulitis are considered "maculae" whereas eczema and lichen simplex appear in the chapter on "plaques". A number of sections would be improved by more detail, for example, in the section on lichen planus, desquamative vaginitis is mentioned as an important differential diagnosis but no further information is provided. In addition, the information given, particularly for recommended treatments and "progressive therapeutic options", are not always in keeping with clinical practice in the UK. The suggestion that all patients with genital warts should be observed closely on a long-term basis for evidence of dysplastic and neoplastic growth is somewhat questionable as is the statement that a significant disparity exists between the size of the partners erect penis and the patient's introitus in women with vulvar vestibulitis. There are other similar minor quibbles with other sections. The list of references at the end of the book is good but unfortunately no mention is made of these through the text.

In summary, this is a well produced atlas with very good sections on pathology. More detailed and accurate clinical information would make this an excellent text.

CHRIS SONNEX

NOTICES

Cellular and Molecular Biology. 2nd World Congress, Ottawa, Canada, 1-7 September 1996

For information, contact 2nd World Congress Secretariat, Tel: (613) 247-1344, Fax: (613) 247-2187, Email: mhamelin@ottawa.net.

International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

12th Meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTD) held jointly with the International Union Against Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses (IUVD) 19-22 October 1997, Sevilla, Spain.

For further information contact: ICSTD Congress Secretariat, Apdo 6077, 41080-Sevilla, SPAIN. Fax. 95.4377413.

EUROGIN Conference: Herpes virus in Genital Pathology, 23-25 October 1996 EUROPEAN IUVD CONGRESS ON STDs, 24-25 October 1996

Scientific Secretary: Dr Monsonego, 25 bvd Saint Jacques, 75014 Paris, France. Tel: (1) 40 78 26 71, Fax: (1) 45 89 74 05.

3rd International Conference on Home and Community Care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, 21-24 May 1997, RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Conference address: Bureau PAOG Amsterdam, Tafelbergweg 25, 1105 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Mr Clemens Walta/Ms Mariska Timmers.

DIARY OF EVENTS

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| 11-14 Sept 1996 | Third European Chlamydia Meeting, Vienna, Austria. |
| 15-18 Sept 1996 | Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC). New Orleans, USA. |
| 18-20 Sept 1996 | Society for Social Medicine. Dundee, UK. |
| 3-7 Nov 1996 | 3rd International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection. Birmingham, UK. |
| 1-5 Dec 1996 | International Papillomavirus Workshop, Queensland, Australia. |